

In Remembrance

UNO students speak out about the 9/11 attacks.

NEWS
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gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Nebraska State Fair

Nebraska celebrates its final state fair in Lincoln.

ENTERTAINMENT
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August 28-September 7, 2009

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FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 11, 2009

PRSSA organizes event to raise donations, awareness for local food bank

NOELLE LYNN BLOOD
NEWS EDITOR

September is Hunger Action Month and Sept. 9 was World Hoop Day. The two causes were united to benefit Omaha on Wednesday evening at Elmwood Park as UNO's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America held "Hula Hoop and a Can of Soup."

"We really wanted to do a community-based project to bring everyone together in the name of hunger awareness," said Heather Mead Garrett, a UNO alumna who organized the event.

The event was technically a food drive for the Omaha Food Bank. However, bringing hula hoops and DJs Brent Crampton and Chris Massara made the evening unexpected.

"I thought it was a cool idea," said Myranda Hagemann, 21, a former UNO student. "This makes it fun and interactive. It's a mind, body and spirit workout."

In Douglas County alone, more than 53,000 people live below the poverty line. The Food Bank distributes 6 to 7 million pounds of food per year throughout Nebraska and western Iowa.

"This event brings attention to the



Myranda Hagemann, 21, spins a hoop around her neck Wednesday night at "Hula Hoop and a Can of Soup." (MIKE BELL/THE GATEWAY)

Food Bank's dedication to the people of Omaha," Garrett said.

The Food Bank will accept non-perishable donations of canned foods, boxed goods and personal care items. Monetary donations and volunteer time are also extremely necessary for the Bank's success.

UNO art major Dan Lenser, 21, saw

a flier for the event at The Flying Worm in the Old Market. He joined the crowd of more than 50 participants with his hula hoop and can of soup. He said it combined two causes he is passionate about.

"I like to hoop and I like people to be well-fed," he said.

Online training course developed to prevent sexual harassment

NOELLE LYNN BLOOD
NEWS EDITOR

UNO's Office of Diversity continues to promote a positive and productive campus experience by offering an online professional training program called Preventing Sexual Harassment.

The program, which can be accessed at newmedialearning.com/psd/unomaha/index.htm, provides background information about sexual harassment and allows students, faculty and guest users to complete a mastery test with printable certificate of completion.

The primary goals of the course are: to enable users to identify sexual harassment behaviors, explain legal and other consequences of sexual harassment, describe users' roles and responsibilities in creating academic and work environments free of sexual harassment, teach actions to be taken against sexual harassment and declare UNO's policies and procedures on sexual harassment.

More than 60 percent of college students report being sexually harassed on campus, according to the American Association of University Women Web site.

"Harassment of any kind is bothersome, demeaning, irritating and annoying behavior," according to the Preventing Sexual Harassment literature. "Disrespectful or offensive sexual behavior by faculty, staff or students is inappropriate and, in some cases, may be abuse of authority. The involved parties can be men or women; supervisors, subordinates or peers."

Sexual harassment cuts across all racial, gender, ethnic and income lines, said Mary Sweeney, assistant director of human resources at UNO.

While sexual harassment hasn't been a major issue at UNO, the university is "a microcosm of larger society and sexual harassment is an issue that affects every employer," Sweeney said. "We're no different."

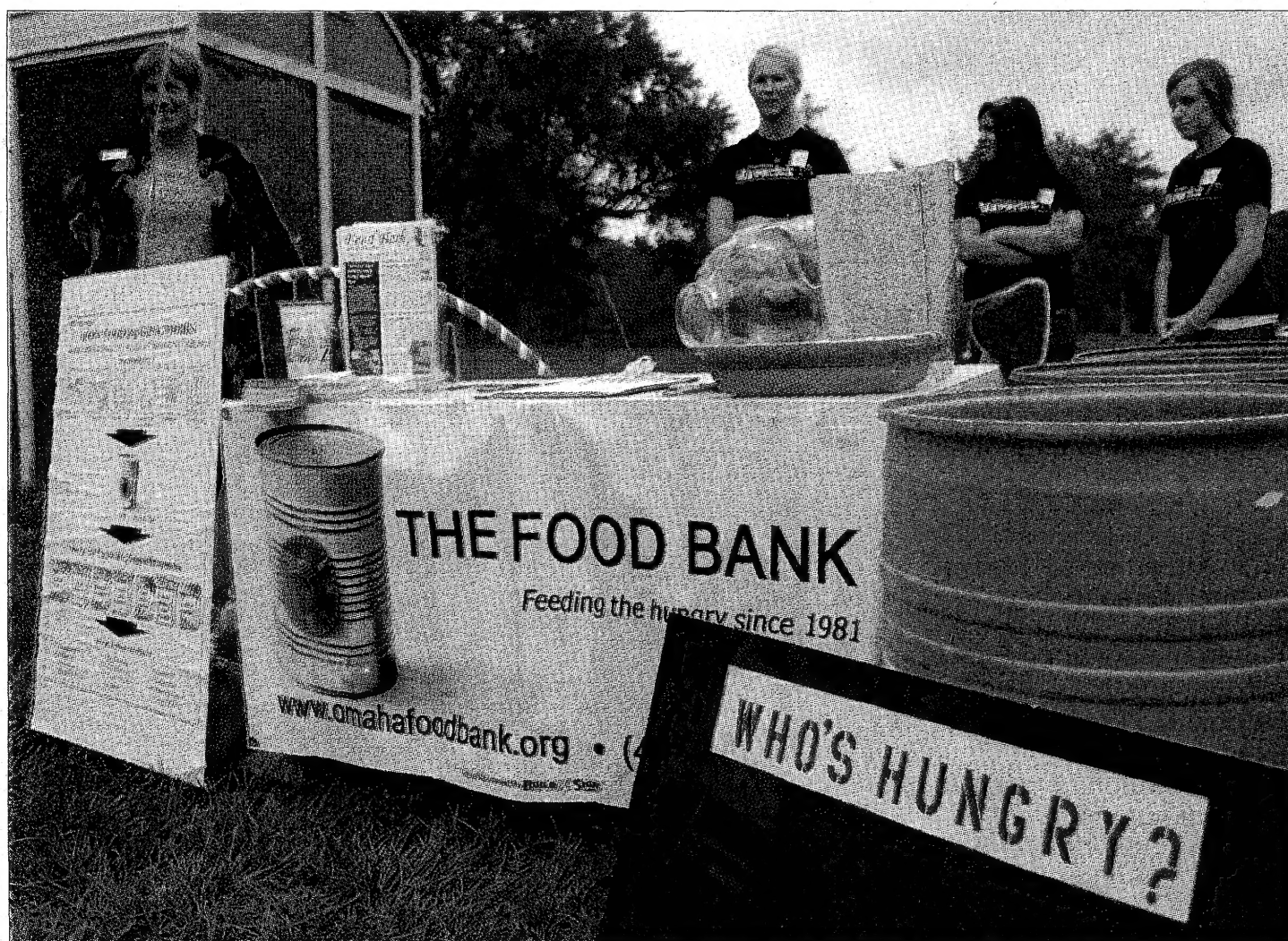
The program is available in student, faculty and guest versions. None of the faculty offices are required to use the program. However, Dori Richards, director of the UNO Writing Center, requires all consultants to pass the program before they interact with student clients.

"It's valuable for them in several ways," Richards said. "They work very closely with clients here in the writing center, so they need to be aware of the problem of sexual harassment. They also all teach in the composition classroom. So as faculty, they need to be aware of their obligations and how to draw the line if students step over."

Sexual harassment includes verbal, nonverbal, physical and visual aspects, according to the Preventing Sexual Harassment literature. Even such behaviors as off-color jokes, invasion of personal space or unwelcome comments can be harassing in nature.

The intent behind behaviors is not relevant in determining whether it is

SEE HARASSMENT: PAGE 2



Left to right, a food bank volunteer and PRSSA members Alicia Kettleson, Shannon Stawniak and Kristin Webb gave out Food Bank information at the donation table Wednesday night. (MIKE BELL/THE GATEWAY)

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FROM **HARASSMENT**: PAGE 1

harassment, according to the course. What matters is the impact of said behavior on a work or school environment.

"This fact is critically important. The statement, 'I didn't mean anything by it,' is not a valid defense of harassing behavior," according to the Preventing Sexual Harassment literature.

Courtney Christopherson, 23, is a graduate student at UNO, and a consultant at the Writing Center. She passed the mastery test in the program with 100 percent.

The message she took away from the course is that being proactive on issues such as sexual harassment is always a good thing.

"I don't think anyone is prepared for that, even if you think about it and talk about it," Christopherson

said. "I think it always comes as a shock when you encounter it. I think learning about it lets you stop and think about it before you panic."

UNO views sexual offenses as a very serious matter in violation of both the university's criminal statutes and codes of conduct. All incidents of harassment, whether experienced or merely witnessed as a bystander are to be reported through formal complaint procedures.

If one witnesses or experiences harassment, he/she is to contact Sharon Ulmar, director of the Office of Diversity. The Office of Diversity is located in the Eppley Administration Building 205.

Sweeney said anyone can benefit from taking the Preventing Sexual Harassment online course.

"Education never hurts," she said.

Geographer addresses water source protection

ANDREA CIUREJ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Benjamin Franklin once said, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."

Water is one of the most essential substances for living, and the need to protect drinking water supply sources in the United States is more apparent than ever.

Chi Sham, vice-president of The Cadmus Group in Boston, Mass., spoke to more than a dozen students and faculty members on Sept. 4 about how state and local communities can protect their drinking water supply sources.

Sham's lecture titled "The Role of Geography in Protecting Drinking Water Supply Sources in the U.S." was part of the UNO Department of Geography/Geology's lecture series held in Durham Science Center.

Sham—who heads the Drinking Water and Water Quality Division at Cadmus—began his presentation with the implementation source water assessments, which were mandated under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996.

Sham said the state is responsible for completing a source water assessment, which provides important information about the potential risks posed to drinking water. These assessments are also vital for prioritizing protection activities.

As part of the assessment, the state must undergo delineation, compile a contamination source inventory and develop a susceptibility analysis.

"You go out and find all of the drinking water supply sources and see how vulnerable that particular source is," Sham said. "Most of the septic systems don't treat chemical, they treat human waste to some extent."

The ongoing problem of drinking water contamination varies based on geographical region.

"If you're in the east...the type of contamination you see is going to be very different as compared to moving out here in Nebraska or Iowa," Sham said. "Most of the contamination related to groundwater tends to be more culturally oriented, when in the east it tends to be more

industrial-oriented."

Sham said public awareness—the final step in the assessment—is key to prevent drinking water contamination.

"If you know where you're getting your water from, you will probably be more careful about disposing waste [and] about contamination," he said. "The whole concept is that we're trying to give power to the general public."

Sept. 11 posed a problem for instating public awareness, as the state and federal governments were shady about releasing the sources of drinking water.

Sham said each state has a different mindset, though.

Most states completed their assessments in 2003. Now, the

Environmental Protection Agency wants to direct its attention to water protection efforts, which do not include federal regulation.

Sham said the goal of source water protection is to minimize public health risks for 50 percent of the community water systems and by for the associated 62 percent of the population served by the systems.

"You really want to be preventive, rather than reactionary," he said.

A preventative approach toward protecting drinking water supply sources is to understand that

no news is good news.

"If you didn't hear that Omaha's drinking water is a problem, that's good," Sham said. "People are doing their job and the water is safe. When you start hearing there is a problem, generally that means someone isn't following up."

Sham said geography plays a vital role in initiating protective drinking water strategies. Geography, for example, is used to examine hydrologic responses from land use and associated contaminants responsible for groundwater pollution.

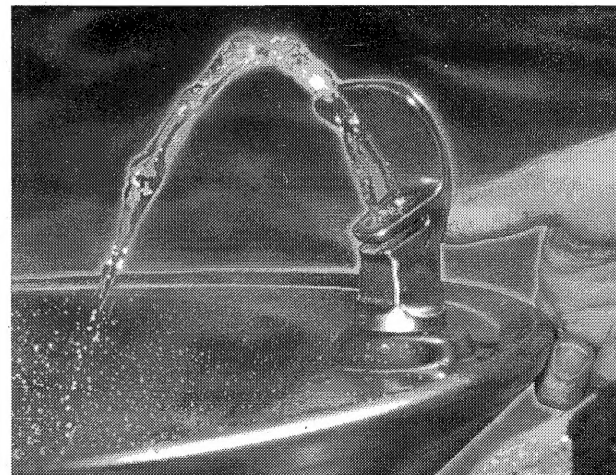
"It's more of an approach than it actually is a discipline," Sham said. "History gives you a sense of time, geography gives you a sense of place."

Geography is most useful in environmental consulting, especially when speaking with economists, engineers and geologists. It is also used to develop and implement preventative and mitigating approaches to protect source water, such as land-use management and pollution prevention, Sham said.

Source water protection also requires an interdisciplinary approach, such as economic and financial assessment.

Although the U.S. public water system is doing well, Sham said public health is still a serious concern.

"What is your life worth?" Sham said. "You really can't put a number on life."



(PHOTO COURTESY OF UWIRE)

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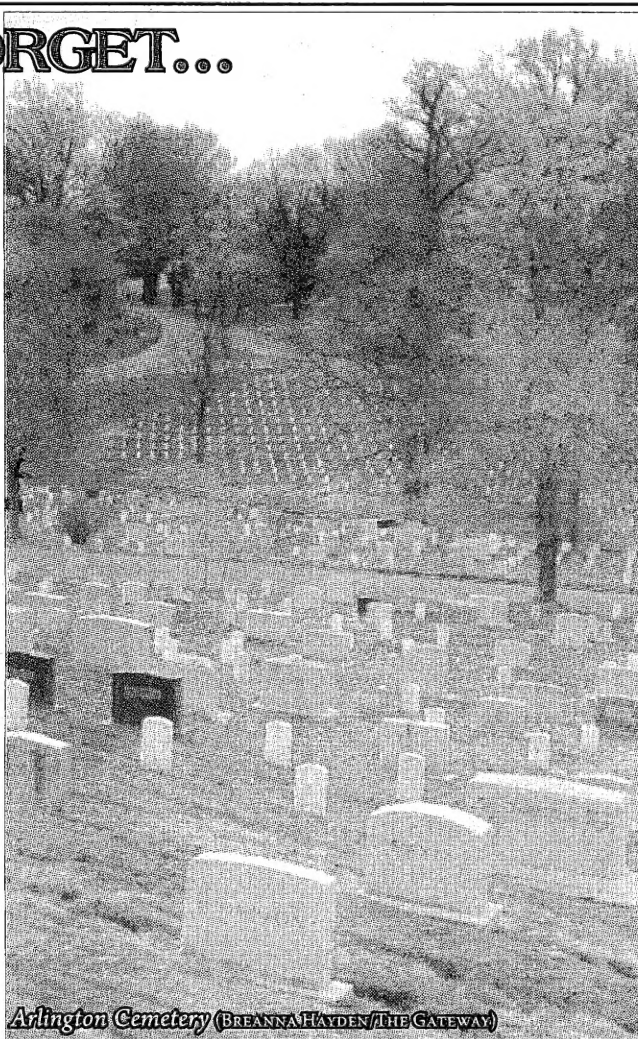


(PHOTO COURTESY OF UWIRE)

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Pentagon Memorial (BREANNA HAYDEN/THE GATEWAY)



Arlington Cemetery (BREANNA HAYDEN/THE GATEWAY)



View of the Washington Monument from the World War II Memorial. (ANDREA BARBE/THE GATEWAY)

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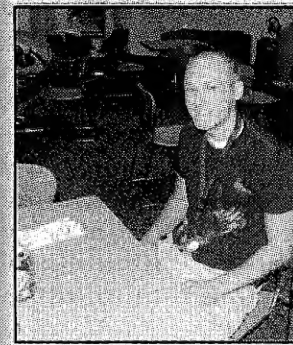
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DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE AND WHAT YOU WERE DOING WHEN YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ATTACKS ON SEPT. 11, 2001?

COMPILED BY NOELLE LYNN BLOOD
NEWS EDITOR



ZACH POLLARD, 20,
AVIATION MAJOR

"I was in sixth grade. I was in reading class. I didn't find out until the end of the day that anything had happened. Being in the Air Force now, you really understand what you're fighting for."

"I was in high school. We were sitting in class and suddenly another teacher came in. They started talking in that tense, conspiratorial teacher-to-teacher way where you know something's wrong. We all rushed to the TVs. I had the distinct urge to call my mom. I felt my safety had been violated and I had to call someone."



COLLEEN O'DOHERTY, 23,
SPANISH MAJOR



ROGER GARCIA, 23,
PSYCHOLOGY AND LATIN/
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
MAJOR

"It happened during second period. I was a freshman in high school. I was getting out of choir. Someone said we were attacked. I didn't understand. The teacher turned on the radio and it really hit me. I had visited the towers a year before, and it hit me that they were gone and so many people died."

"I was in Ms. Christiansen's seventh grade English class. I remember we were talking about dreams. We turned on the TV when a student brought up the rumor and as we turned it on, they showed both towers falling. I felt it wasn't possible. It was a state of disbelief."



KATE ARNOLD, 20,
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
MAJOR



SCOTT SCHIMMOELLER, 21,
EDUCATION MAJOR

"I was in eighth grade, in math class. The teacher kind of told us quietly, there were no major announcements. They wanted to make it subtle. It made me sad to know that innocent people lost their lives."

ALL PHOTOS BY MICK BELL/THE GATEWAY

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Local designers, organizers plan for Omaha Fashion Week

FELICIA MESADIEU
CONTRIBUTOR

New York, Paris and Milan may be the traditional fashion capitals of the world, but Omaha's on the fast track to making the Midwest recognized for its creative clothing designers, models and artists.

Omaha Fashion Week will run from Sept. 15 through Sept. 19 at the Nomad Lounge downtown. The week-long event, now in its sophomore effort, will consist of various exhibits, parties and fundraisers that showcase the talents of local fashion designers, boutiques and salons. All these activities lead up to the final runway show on Saturday night.

Omaha Fashion Week Creative Director Dale Heise first introduced this event to the metro last year and said he was worried about how well it would be received.

"Last year, nobody understood the scope of what we were doing," Heise said.

But with over 2,000 spectators at the week's finale show, the chic happening became an overnight success many people continued to discuss for weeks.

Heise said the positive feedback from last year has motivating him to surpass everyone's expectations and make Omaha Fashion Week an annual event.

However, while the show is aimed at featuring some of Omaha's finest and most creative clothing designers, organizers also took a few steps at setting it apart from other fashion weeks in various cities.

Heise said that he and his team take care of all expenses that the designer would normally be responsible for. He added that the event's central focus is on local skills and finesse after designers from other states inquired about contributing to the show.

"We really want to focus on the talent that is here," Heise said. "I don't think you will find that in other fashion weeks."

Juantiesha Christian, Bellevue University admissions counselor and graduate student, was one of the many designers selected to participate in Omaha Fashion Week. Self-taught and designing for only five years, Christian said this show will be "a good marketing tool" because it gives her an opportunity to showcase her clothing line, SuShe.

"I see this opening up doors for myself," Christian said.

Christian added that she has been working on her collection for months and described her line as funky patterns and classic pieces accompanied by vintage flair.

"Everything in my collection is something in that somebody is going to like," Christian said.

Shamina Wiek is another designer selected to participate in the show. Wiek said her interest in fashion designing started after taking a sewing course in high school. After graduation, the young designer said she immersed herself in the Omaha fashion scene, and later created her Pastel Groove



A large crowd in front of the Nomad Lounge watches the 2008 Omaha Fashion Show. (PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS MACHIAN)

House clothing line.

Since she became involved in Omaha Fashion Week, Wiek said she believes her association with the event has increased her popularity.

"Normally on Facebook, I get two friend requests a month," Wiek said. "But since fashion week, I get two requests a day which is a lot more."

The Pastel Groove House collection is inspired by carefree people who dare to stand out, Wiek said, adding that her line is defined as modernized 80s with a variety of loud dresses and bright colors.

"I want to change the way people dress in Omaha," Wiek said.

But it's not only the local designers that are excited about Omaha Fashion Week.

Senior Amy Wiczork is an independent fashion model and was cast as one of the models for the fashion show.

"I went to the show last year and loved it," Wiczork said. "It was my goal to be in Omaha Fashion Week this year."

Nomad Lounge, located at 10th and Jones Streets, is hosting Omaha Fashion Week again this year. Heise said he believes this trendy nightclub, as well as other show

sponsors, will benefit from the event's success.

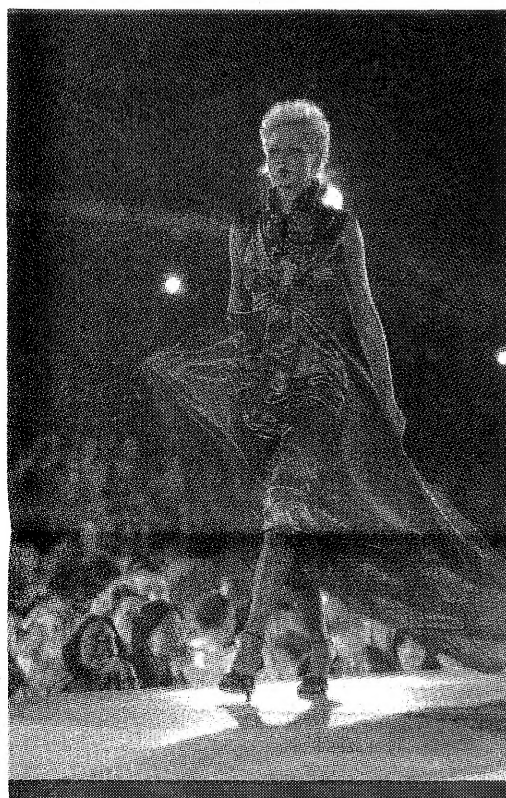
"For a lot of places in Omaha, we have one-stop shop where you can draw at least 2,000 people of your target market on one block and have your logo or name exposed to them," Heise said.

However, Omaha Fashion Week is about more than promoting local fashion designers and models. Organizers for this event are working with sponsors to give back to the Omaha community. A silent auction will be held on Sept. 18 with a portion of the proceeds raised benefiting the American Heart Association.

With the event just a few days away, fashion lovers are eager to catch the cutting edge designs and fierce runway walks.

"Expect the unexpected," Heise said.

Tickets to the Finale Runway Show on Sept. 19 range in price from \$20 for general admission or \$75 for VIP seats, which includes limo shuttle service, premier seating, complimentary bar, red carpet photos, gift bags and special access at the event. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. To purchase tickets or for more information about Omaha Fashion Week, visit omahafashionweek.com.



Amelia Hummel wears a Lindsey Solomon-Mohr piece at the fashion show in front of Nomad Lounge as part of Omaha Fashion Week last year. (PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS MACHIAN)

FASHION CALENDAR COMPILED BY ANDREA BARBE ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR	Tue, Sept. 15th	Wed, Sept. 16th		Fri, Sept. 18th	Sat, Sept. 19th
	Launch Party and Vintage Exhibit: 7 p.m.	Boutique Night: 6 p.m.	Glam Style Night: 7 p.m.	Celebrity Fundraiser: 7 p.m.	Runway Finale: 6 p.m.
	The unveiling of the WOW! Vintage Exhibit in the Nomad Galleries will kick off Omaha Fashion Week. This vintage clothing presentation includes several celebrity pieces and rare finds from all across the globe. The exhibit will run through Sept. 19.	Nomad's cabanas host a viewing of clothing and accessories from local boutiques. "Style Your Sole," a shoe-painting party, will be presented by Roots and Wings and TOMS Shoes. For every pair of shoes purchased, TOMS Shoes will donate a pair to a child in need. There will also be a Runway show at 8:30 p.m.	Over a dozen local hair and make-up stylists will showcase their skills at Glam Style Night, presented by The Next Big Thing. Hundreds of free beauty samples and a few complimentary haircuts and styles will also be given.	A silent auction will be held and offer patrons a chance to win celebrity-donated fashion items. Proceeds from the auction will go to support the American Heart Association and Girls Inc.	The week's events all wrap up with a fashion show showcasing local fashion designers with an organic and green theme. Doors open at 6 p.m. The show will begin at 8 p.m. and a portion of the ticket sales will support the American Heart Association.

Final State Fair in Lincoln bittersweet for many vendors, patrons

MICHELLE BISHOP
PHOTO EDITOR

LINCOLN — For Valerie Percival, and many other vendors and fans of the Nebraska State Fair, Labor Day was a bittersweet finale to the fair's 108-year run in Lincoln.

Percival's nut-sundae-on-a-stick booth has become a regular fixture at the fair, selling frozen treats for what will be 50 years when the event heads west to Grand Island's Fanner Park next August.

"I'm going to be sad to see it leave," Percival said. "It'll be interesting. I've enjoyed Lincoln. There's a lot of things here and a lot of nice people."

Despite the fair's closer future location for the Oxford, Neb., resident, Percival said she's going to miss the bonds she's made with both the customers and neighboring vendors.

"It's like a family up here on the corner," Percival said.

"We've all been up here a long, long time, and we send Christmas cards and all that stuff."

Percival first started helping with the ice cream treats when she was 10 years old and has been a part of the past 49 fairs. The little wooden booth sits near the heart of State Fair Park under towering oak trees and the top of the midway.

Next year's move west prompted an increase at the gates and in sales for businesses like Percival's during the 11 days of the fair.

"A lot of people are coming to the fair this year based on the fact that it's the last fair in Lincoln," said Christine Rasmussen, director of sponsorship and program development for the fair. "A lot of them said they haven't been to the fair in a long time and they just wanted to take it in one more time before it

SEE STATE FAIR PAGE 5



Valerie Percival serves a nut-sundae-on-a-stick to a customer at the Nebraska State Fair on Labor Day. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

FROM **STATE FAIR** PAGE 4

moved 90 miles west."

Attendance at this year's fair totaled 367,203, nearly 19 percent higher than 2008 and the largest in



Ryan Harper helps motivate racing pig Forest Grunt during the Hedrick's Racing Pigs event at the Nebraska State Fair on Labor Day. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

six years.

"We have a survey that we've been doing throughout the fair and there's a significant number, around 15 or 16 percent, have said it's the first time they've been to the fair," Rasmussen said. "Many have said they haven't been here in many years and many have said the reason they've come is because it's the last fair in the city of Lincoln."

Beautiful weather, other than one rainy day, likely helped encourage a strong turnout for the final run of the fair.

"The weather was excellent," said Eco-Magician Steve Trash. "People were in really good moods. They

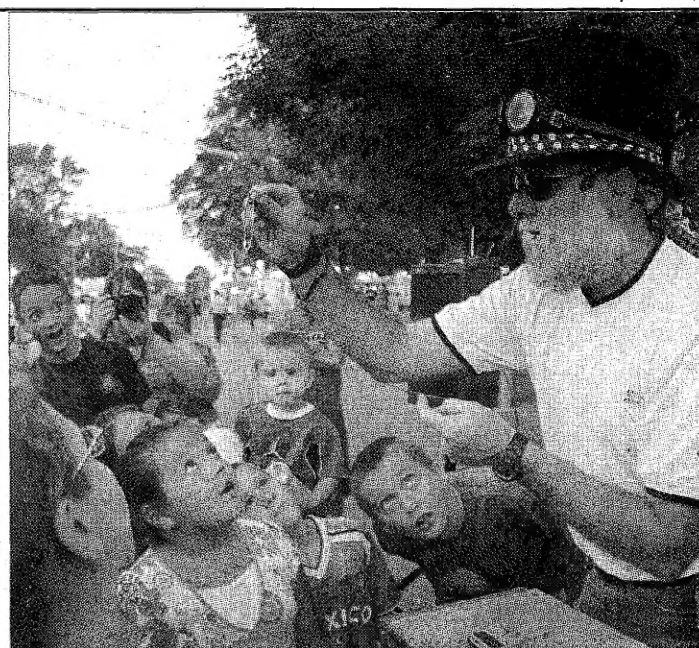
loved to find the magic of magic, they like stumbling on this thing they didn't expect."

Trash, who was performing at his third fair in Lincoln, said he'd take his environmental-friendly magic show to Grand Island if he is asked to return.

Rasmussen said the fair has received great response from the vendors and exhibitors to follow the move to Grand Island.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will now take over State Fair Park to begin developing it into a public and private research park.

"It's been a year of change all around, nationally and locally and everything else," Percival said. "I guess we're just going to have to learn to deal with it."



Eco-Magician Steve Trash captivates an audience with magic tricks at the Nebraska State Fair on Labor Day. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

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UNO to host free concert for 9/11 remembrance

ANDREA BARBE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The eighth annual global day of music for peace will hold a special free concert at UNO to commemorate Sept. 11.

The September Concert Foundation organized the event, which will be presented from noon until 1 p.m. on the south side of the UNO Student Center Plaza. Musicians from the UNO Concert and Jazz Bands will perform various kinds

of music, including rock 'n roll, classical and jazz.

Since the concert originated in New York on Sept. 11, 2002, this celebration has grown by global proportions. In 2008, 250 concerts were held worldwide and 46 of those concerts took place in major U.S. cities, including Oakland, Philadelphia, Santa Barbara, Fort Worth, Seattle and Washington, D.C. Nearly 8,000 professional and amateur musicians took part in the event last year and more are

expected to take part in upcoming years.

This year's event will include 15 concerts in Rome, 68 concerts over a three-day span in Japan, and several other concerts in Ghana, United Arab Emirates, Haiti and Spain just to name a few.

While some major cities are planning on hosting this concert for the first time, Omaha is in its third year of participation. However, for the past two years, the concert was held at the Durham Museum with the DeBrodiez String Quartet performing.

"The September Concert offers an opportunity for people to come together once a year and be united in hopes for peace and celebrate our universal humanity," Haruko Smith, founder and chairperson of the September Concert Foundation said in a press release. "Music has a unique power to do that."

This music event is being held in partnership with the Omaha Sister Cities Association and UNO.

SEPTEMBER FEST

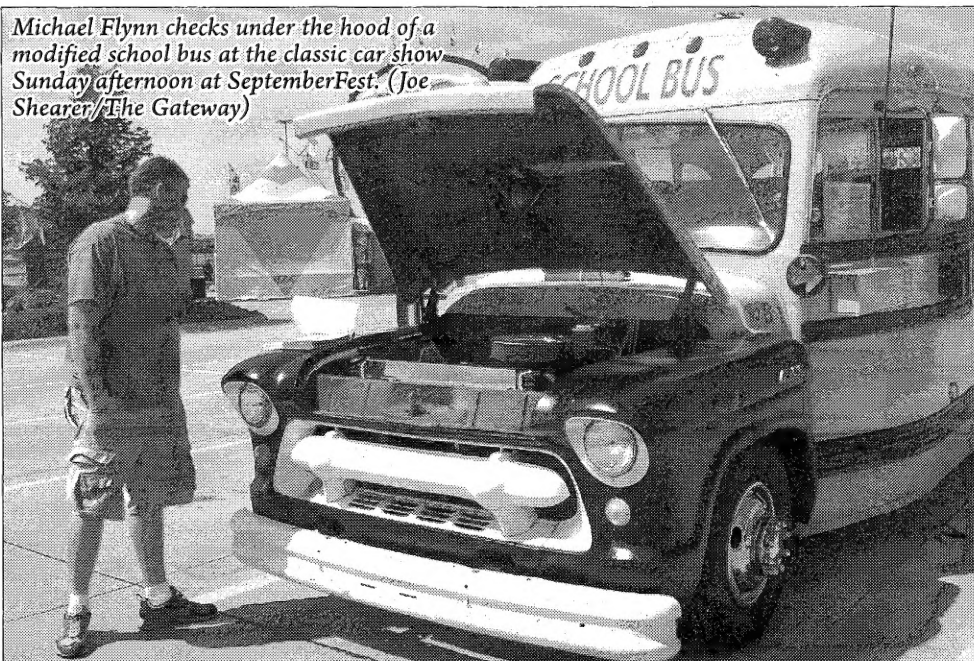


Ferris wheel view of SeptemberFest on Sunday afternoon. (Joe Shearer/The Gateway)

Emily Eickenberry tries for a plush novelty at the Ball Toss game Sunday afternoon at SeptemberFest. (Joe Shearer/The Gateway)



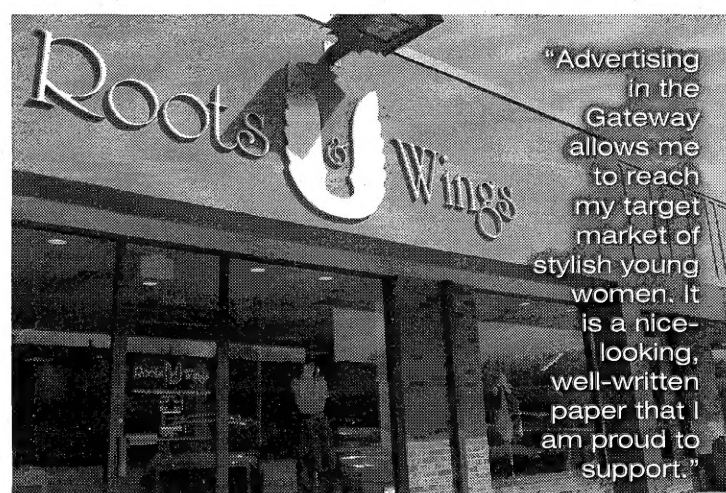
Michael Flynn checks under the hood of a modified school bus at the classic car show Sunday afternoon at SeptemberFest. (Joe Shearer/The Gateway)



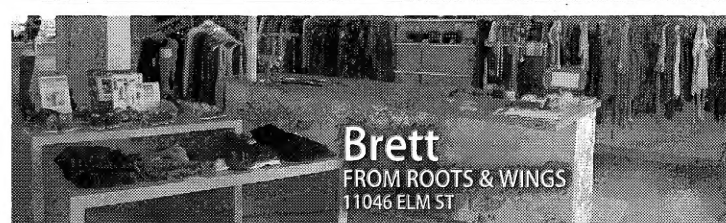
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Thommes anchors Mavericks in Florida tournament

ZACH SEASTEDT
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO women's volleyball team entered the 2009 Florida Southern Classic with a 4-0 record, having swept through their season-opening Volleyball Showcase. The Sunshine State presented more of a challenge than the competition in Sapp Fieldhouse.

The Mavs went 0-2 during Friday's contests against ranked foes but rebounded with solid wins on Saturday to leave the Florida Southern Classic with a 2-2 tournament record and a 6-2 record overall.

Friday was a rough day for UNO after losing to No. 11 University of Minnesota-Duluth and host No. 14 Florida Southern College in four sets.

The first match of the day featured a tough task against the Bulldogs from Duluth. Senior middleblocker Ellen Thommes and senior hitter Sara Kampschnieder led the Mavs with 13 and 12 kills, respectively.

UMD thoroughly outplayed the Mavs and registered 14 more total kills and hit a better percentage, with UMD hitting .344 and the Mavs hitting .327.

Thommes hit .545 with just one error, while senior hitter Kelli Goeser led the Mavs defensively with seven digs.

Friday evening's match against Florida Southern College was a better game overall for the Mavs. The first three sets had 20 ties and 10 lead changes. UNO had a chance in the third set to take a 2-1 lead, but a surge by the Moccasins foiled the Mavs' opportunity.

Thommes once again set the tone for the Mavs, leading the team with 13 kills.

Sophomore middleblocker Lizzy Mach contributed 11 kills while hitting .625. Kampschnieder led defensively with 15 digs.

Saturday was a new day for the Mavs, and UNO was looking to shake off their two-game losing streak.

The first match of the day was against Bemidji State. UNO set the tempo for the day with a great all-around game, defeating the Beavers 3-1.

Thommes led the team offensively with a dozen kills while hitting .545. Sophomore defensive specialist Angie Reicks led the team with 21 digs, while the team contributed to block 11 of Bemidji State's offensive attacks.

Saturday's final game was against sixth-ranked Grand Valley State, and the Mavs closed out the tournament in an impressive fashion, winning the match 3-1.

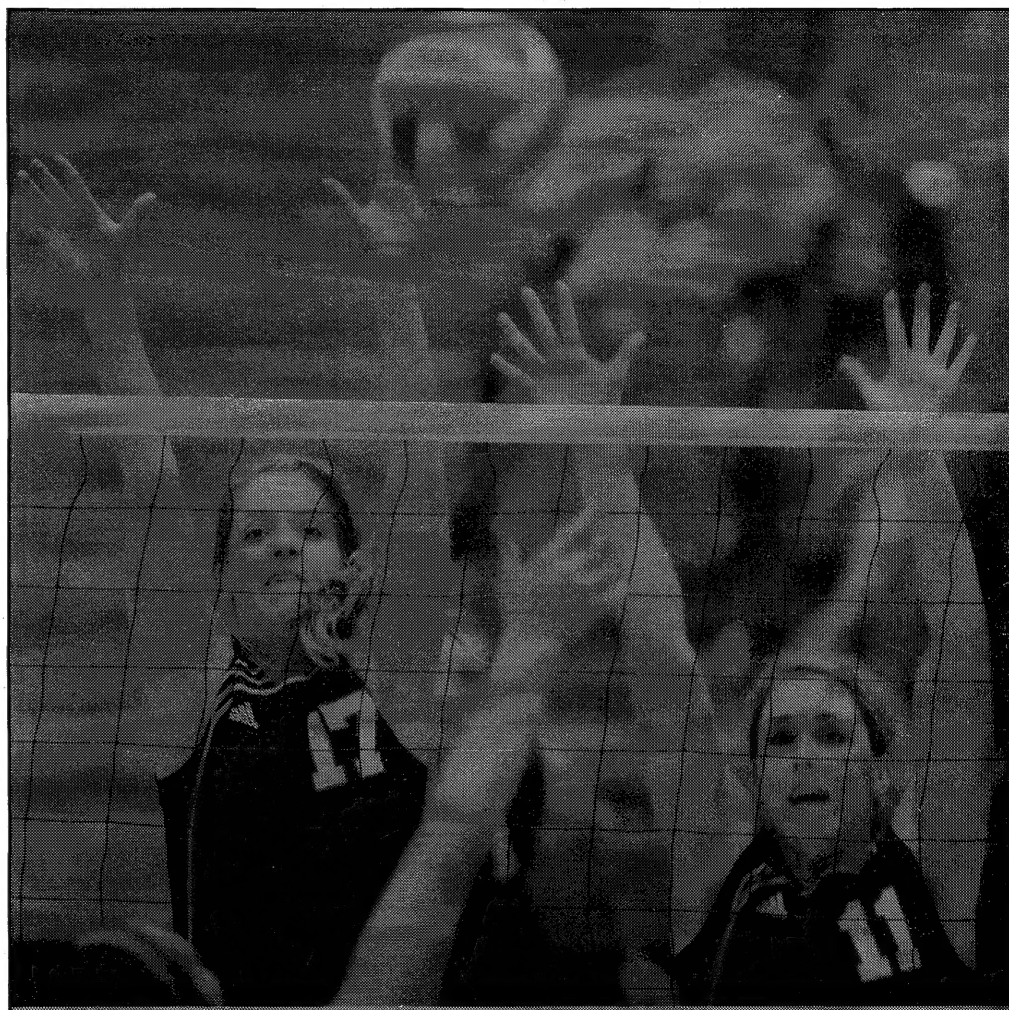
Three Mavs reached double-digit kills, including Goeser with 17, Thommes with 12 and Mach with 11.

The defense was hot once again, with Reicks adding 29 digs and sophomore middleblocker Brittany Hanssen blocking four offensive attempts.

Other news from the team:

- Thommes was named the Nebraska NCAA Division II volleyball player of the week for the second straight week. Thommes averaged 3.12 kills a set and hit .436 during the Florida Southern Classic.

- 400 watch: Head Coach Rose Shires is now only seven wins away from earning 400 for her career. Shires is No. 1 at UNO in total wins and No. 2 with a .644 winning percentage.



Brittany Hanssen (left) and Kelli Goeser (right) go up for a block. Goeser had 11 kills to lead UNO up to a three-set sweep over North Alabama on Aug. 29. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

- Thommes is only 22 kills from reaching 1,000 for her career. She would be the 17th member of the 1,000 kill club for UNO. She is already ranked ninth in career block assists with 311.

- A break from the ranks: After

Wednesday's match against ninth-ranked Nebraska-Kearney, UNO returns home to host the UNO Classic on Sept. 11 and 12 against four unranked teams: Southern Indiana, Drury, Missouri S&T and Angelo State.

UNO's Baier named offensive player of the week



Forward Nicole Baier has been named the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association offensive player of the week. (PHOTO COURTESY OF OMAVS.COM)

ZACH SEASTEDT
SPORTS EDITOR

For redshirt freshman forward Nicole Baier, the past weekend at the Truman Labor Day Classic tournament was one she may not forget for a very long time.

Baier scored her first career goal on Sept. 4 against Central Oklahoma. Then she added two more to give her a hat trick. She helped her team win for the first time

all season.

Now Baier is this week's Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association Offensive Player of the Week.

The Omaha native only finished with three goals on the weekend, being held scoreless against No. 24 St. Edward's on Sunday, but also added two assists against Central Oklahoma.

Baier leads the Mavs in goals (3), assists (2), points (8), and shots (20).

Huskers off to a fresh start

ZACH SEASTEDT
SPORTS EDITOR

The sun has set long ago on the first weekend of Nebraska football, but the buzz around the state is still audible.

Nebraska opened the 2009 campaign with a 49-3 whooping of Florida Atlantic on Saturday, and while the team's performance was far from perfect, fans around the state are excited about what they saw from the Huskers.

Here are some thoughts from the first game of the year:

- Zac Lee performed well in his first career start. The junior was 15-22 for 213 yards with two touchdowns and one interception, and that includes a drop or three. Other than his interception, Lee's passes were on-target and crisp. He looked poised and comfortable, but that could be due to the offensive line's impressive pass-blocking. The kid needs to learn when to use those wheels of his and just take off downfield when receivers are covered.

- Roy Helu is an absolute animal. The junior running back rushed for 152 yards on only 16 carries in about two quarters of action. He looked every bit as impressive as he did towards the end of 2008, running through arm tackles and tearing athletes from their shoes. Helu looks to be one of the top backs in the nation, let alone the Big 12.

- The future could be very bright after a few freshmen made their Nebraska debut. Running back Rex Burkhead, quarterback Cody Green and linebacker Eric Martin

were a few freshman to get some clock on Saturday, and they all looked equally promising.

- The right side of the offensive line could be its strength. Both guard Ricky Henry and tackle Marcel Jones pushed their respective assignments downfield on multiple occasions. That's a great sign to see, especially when the pair will be back again in 2010.

- The defensive line did very well. While they didn't register a sack for the game, this is mostly due to FAU's offensive gameplay that had quarterback Rusty Smith getting rid of the ball as quickly as possible. Tackle Jared Crick looks like he could match the hype he has received this offseason - the native from Cozad, Neb., found himself in the backfield multiple times, thanks in part to the double-teaming on teammate Ndamukong Suh.

- The secondary looked better than last year. Still, I'm not ready to crown them anything yet. There were no major breakdowns in coverage like last year, but this was still only one game. Could have been a fluke.

- The linebackers played a solid game considering that two of them were making their first career starts. Redshirt freshmen Sean Fisher and Will Compton displayed athleticism that we haven't had at the position in a few years. While there is still plenty of work to be done, the entire corps ran to the ball well and wasn't out of position.

- Where did Niles Paul go? I hope he comes back for Arkansas State.

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Ribbon cutting marks grand opening of HPER south addition

ZACH SEASTEDT
SPORTS EDITOR

Construction at the HPER building is finally coming to an end.

UNO Campus Recreation will officially introduce its new state-of-the-art fitness center on Sept. 16 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony beginning

at 12 p.m.

The ceremony will take place at the entrance of the South addition in the HPER building, and will feature brief statements from UNO administration and those involved in the renovation.

Students, faculty and members of the community will have the opportunity to tour the addition and speak

with Campus Recreation staff about questions they may have about the renovation or the new machines and equipment available.

More information about the HPER addition and other renovation projects can be found at the UNO Campus Recreation Web site unomaha.edu/wwocr.

UNO athletics to honor local heroes

ANDREA CIUREJ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Omaha Fire and Police Departments, along with sheriffs and state troopers will put up their dukes in a flag-football match before the Mavericks face-off against the Truman State Bulldogs Sept. 12 at 6 p.m.

The match is part of Local Hero's Night, which will feature appearances from some of Omaha's own local heroes.

"Currently, the police and firefighters and all of those folks...are getting scrutinized a lot," said Matt Hansen, director of athletic sponsorships and marketing at UNO. "We feel like they're still the people we count on to save our lives and keep us safe in Omaha."

The UNO Marching Mavs and the cowbell-ringing regulars won't be the only ones sounding their instruments, either. Emergency vehicles will surround part of the track and, for every touchdown,

the vehicles' horns will sound and their emergency flashers will glister.

Hansen said local heroes in Omaha will also be honored at the game.

"I think students can see some people they look up to," he said.

Hansen said this event is all about keeping with the tradition of Omaha's team.

"If we're truly going to be Omaha's team, we've got to take care of those people in Omaha who take care of us, he said.

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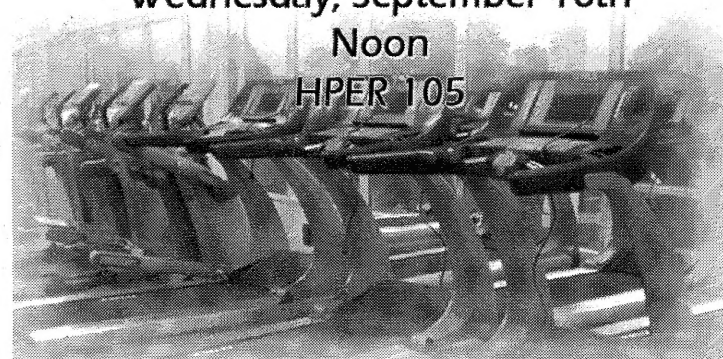
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